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PRESS RELEASE

Region's Energy Specialists Discuss How to Increase the Reliability of Transmission Systems at a USAID-Supported Workshop

On February 18-20, 2009 energy transmission operators from Afghanistan and the Central Asia Republics discussed Special Protection Systems for Transmission System Operations and Emergencies at a workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The workshop was organized by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** in cooperation with the **United States Energy Association's (USEA)**.

The workshop brought together specialists from Kazakhstan's KEGOC, Kyrgyzstan's NESK, Tajikistan's Barki Tojik, Uzbekenergo, the regional Central Dispatch Coordinator from Tashkent, and DABM Afghanistan. **Participants discussed how to improve reliability of Central Asia regional transmission grid and facilitate increased power exchanges with the Afghanistan electricity system as it completes its North-East Power System 220kv transmission system.** Once fully operational, the NEPS transmission system will allow electricity from Central Asia to be exported to Afghanistan. This will ensure more reliable supply and coverage to north-eastern Afghanistan and expand market opportunities for Central Asian electricity generators.

This workshop focused on "Special Protection Systems" - automatic systems to detect abnormal, emergency or predetermined system conditions and take corrective actions to maintain system stability, acceptable voltage or power flows. In addition to the isolation of faulted components, corrective actions may include changes in demand, generation, or system configuration. If an electrical transmission line goes out of service, utilities must implement procedures to reduce demand by consumers, increase power generation and/or redirect power to other transmission lines.

The workshop was led by specialists from Bonneville Power Administration, one of the largest Transmission owners and operators in the United States. Participants learned about the methods, equipment, and procedures used by the United States and South Africa to protect the integrity of the transmission system and to lessen their overall impact on the transmission system in emergency situations. Specialists also discussed load shedding, the isolation of fault conditions, and other steps that are not usually designed as an integral part of the Special Protection Systems.



Delegates of the Transmission Operations Workshop at the Turkey Transmission Company's Northwestern Regional Dispatch Control Center and 400 kv Substation in Istanbul, Turkey. Photo: USEA

This workshop is one of the many made possible with the support of the American people provided through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Since 1992, USAID has brought to Central Asia over \$1.5 billion through assistance programs that support development of the region's economy, health care and education, and democratic institutions.